

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1942

A7L 112

Reserve

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. Agricultural Marketing Service

Washington, D. C.

LABELING COMMERCIAL COPPER CARBONATE DUSTS INTENDED  
FOR SEED TREATMENTLIBRARY  
RECEIVED

★ SEP 19 1941 ★

Department of Agriculture

Copper carbonate dusts intended for seed treatment are subject to the provisions of the Federal Insecticide Act. Since they always contain certain inert ingredients they must bear on their labels an ingredient statement in compliance with the requirements of section 8 of the act.

It is well known that commercial copper carbonates are not actually copper carbonate ( $\text{CuCO}_3$ ), which does not exist under ordinary conditions, but consist of a basic copper carbonate or a mixture of basic carbonates. The literature indicates the existence of several basic copper carbonates, and a chemical study has shown that the composition of the commercial product will vary to a considerable extent, dependent on the details of the method of manufacture. In view of this, and since copper appears to be the essential element in the product that causes its activity, we are of the opinion that, within the meaning of the Insecticide Act, the copper is the active ingredient and the remainder of the preparation inert. The following form of ingredient statement, which should appear on the front or main panel of the label in type and position sufficiently prominent to attract the immediate attention of the purchaser, is suggested as the most feasible for this product:

Active Ingredient	
Copper	_____ %
Inert Ingredients	_____ %
Total	100%

the correct values being inserted in the blank spaces where indicated. (It may be noted that this is the same usage which has been adopted in the case of Bordeaux mixture, where the copper is probably actually present as a mixture of basic sulfates.)

The unmodified name "Copper Carbonate" may be applied to the commercially pure basic copper carbonate. It should not be applied to the product which has been diluted with other constituents, either during the process of manufacture or afterwards.

It has come to our attention that the product resulting from certain methods of manufacture will contain considerable amounts of basic copper sulfate. Such a product should not be designated "copper carbonate" but should be labeled to indicate the true nature of the article or by a nondescriptive name.

December, 1930.  
Revised August 20, 1941.

C. C. McDonnell,  
In Charge, Insecticide Division

JAN 21 1943

